

FEDERAL ELECTION  
COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF GENERAL  
COUNSEL

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June 27, 2008

**SENSITIVE**

Thomasenia P. Duncan  
General Counsel  
Federal Election Commission  
999 E Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20463

**MUR # 6032**

Dear Ms. Duncan

As a resident of Tennessee's 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, I am filing a complaint against Tom Leatherwood for Congress for a number of violations of Federal election law. Specifically, Tom Leatherwood has failed to include required disclaimers on his materials and advertisements. Similarly, his disclosure reports do not appear to account for the costs associated with his website. I understand that one of the central purposes of Federal election law is public disclosure.

**TV Ads:** Leatherwood has repeatedly aired television advertising without the disclaimers the FEC requires. In addition to a written disclaimer that states who paid for an ad and whether or not Tom Leatherwood authorized it, television ads must include an oral disclaimer spoken by the candidate in which the candidate identifies himself and states that he approved the communication. Several of Leatherwood's ads failed to include this "stand by your ad" disclaimer. Not only is this a violation of Federal election law, it is a violation of Federal Communications Commission rules, and this failure should cause Leatherwood to forfeit his ability to obtain the cheaper advertising rate afforded candidates.

**Yard signs:** I understand that candidate's yard signs must contain similar disclaimers. The signs must say who paid for the sign. As demonstrated by the enclosed pictures, Leatherwood's signs lack these required disclaimers and thus violate Federal law.

**Web site:** Obtaining a domain name, creating a website, posting content and other related web activities all cost money – yet Leatherwood's disclosure reports do not appear to show any expenditure of campaign funds for his website.

Thus, combined with his other violations, raises an important question: What is Leatherwood hiding that causes him to ignore legally-required public disclosure requirements? Stated another way, Leatherwood has failed to stand by his ad, put

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disclaimers on his materials and not report the payment for his website lead to only one conclusion that he is hiding something, and for whatever reason, does not wish to undergo public scrutiny

I respectfully request that the Federal Election Commission (1) investigate the Leatherwood campaign for these and any other violations of applicable law, (2) impose a significant penalty against Leatherwood, (3) prohibit Leatherwood from engaging in similar unlawful conduct in the future, and (4) such other remedies as the Commission finds appropriate

Respectfully,

  
Randy Bratton

Signed and sworn to before me this 27 day of June, 2008

  
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NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission Expires  
November 15, 2010



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**Congress**

**LEATHERWOOD**

**Tom**

**Tom**

**LEATHERWOOD**

**Congress**

CONGRESS

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# LEATHERWOOD

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